

**FY 2000 Subsistence Fisheries Project Narrative
Project #34**

Project Title: Miles Lake Sonar Improvement

Investigator Organizations: USFS Chugach National Forest Cordova Ranger District, ADF&G Commercial Fisheries Division

Geographic Area: Cook Inlet/Gulf of Alaska

Information Type: Stock Status and Trends

Issue Addressed: The concrete pad used for the track for the sonar counter is in need of repair, and must be improved prior to any upgrade of the sonar technology. Accurate in-season escapement counts of sockeye and chinook salmon are needed to properly manage the highly important subsistence, personal use, and commercial fisheries of the Copper River.

Study Objectives:

1. Repair the concrete pad for improved operation of present sonar counter and for eventual replacement equipment.

Project Description: The Alaska Department of Fish and Game operates a sonar near Miles Lake on the Copper River to estimate the escapement of chinook and sockeye salmon. The concrete pad which holds the track for the counter is in need of repair. The repair work is detailed in the Miles Lake Sonar Substrate Repair project operational plan, written by J. Johnson, ADF&G Cordova. This work has been needed for a number of years, but State funding has not been available. Johnson states that the repair will improve the current sonar operation and is necessary before any equipment upgrades can be made.

In FY 2000, ADF&G proposes to reactivate their permits for this project, advertise for construction bids, award the contract, and proceed with the construction in the fall of 2000 when water levels in the Copper River are low. As additional funding becomes available, they plan to upgrade the sonar equipment to further improve the escapement counts. Johnson says that the construction of the pad is the first necessary step and their immediate priority.

Consultations Completed / Potential for Capacity Building: This project has been discussed with ADF&G, who have been trying to obtain funding for this project since 1991. ADF&G has already discussed the construction project with one local contractor. We are providing copies of all proposals to the Native Village of Eyak and are awaiting comments and discussion.

Deliverables / Products: An improved sonar system and in turn, more accurate escapement data for chinook and sockeye salmon in the Copper River Basin.

Costs:

Annual Budget Summary	ADF&G	USFS	Local Contractor	Total
FY 2000	\$ 7.5 K	\$ 1.0 K	\$ 50.0 K	\$ 58.5 K

USFS \$1,000 contract administration, ADF&G \$7,500 overhead and administration, Local construction preliminary estimate: \$50,000.